

MINUTES OF THE
MARICOPA ASSOCIATION OF GOVERNMENTS
REGIONAL COUNCIL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING
February 12, 2002
Avondale Public Safety Building
1825 North 107th Avenue

MEMBERS ATTENDING

Mayor Skip Rimsza, Phoenix, Chairman	Mayor Keno Hawker, Mesa
Mayor John Keegan, Peoria	Mayor Bill Arnold, Goodyear
* Mayor Jay Tibshraeny, Chandler	

* Not present

1. Call to Order

The Executive Committee meeting was called to order by Chairman Skip Rimsza at 11:25 a.m.

2. Dialogue on MAG Governance Task Force Recommendations

Chairman Rimsza asked Mayor Arnold to recap the discussion from the meeting last Thursday, February 7, 2002 with the East Valley Mayors. Mayor Arnold stated that the mayors had a good discussion on the expanded Executive Committee. They discussed establishing the Executive Committee based on population and geographically. Mayor Arnold noted that a well received suggestion was made by Mayor Giuliano that included giving permanent seats to Phoenix, ADOT and Maricopa County, and having the other eight seats open. Mayor Hawker added that there was extensive discussion on those remaining eight seats and how they would be divided. A question that was raised was what if the numbers are locked into 100,000 or more, what happens when the smaller cities grow. He noted that another issue raised was if a particular mayor of a city of 100,000 or more did not have the time to serve on the Committee, would he or she then be forced. Mayor Arnold stated that Supervisor Stapley also attended the East Valley mayors meeting, and he expressed his gratitude that the County is being considered to serve on the expanded Executive Committee. Chairman Rimsza stated that he attended a meeting regarding transportation in which the County spoke about transportation. The County discussed how they only build roads outside the city in unincorporated land. Mayor Keegan explained that he understood that the County must have an intergovernmental agreement when building roads that pass through a local jurisdiction. He used the construction of Bell Road as an example. Chairman Rimsza asked the population of the unincorporated land in Maricopa County. Mr. Bourey stated that it was over 200,000. Mayor Drake agreed that having the County and ADOT on the Executive Committee was a good idea. Chairman Rimsza agreed that it will help politically, but the Regional Council must look at the benefits versus the consequences.

Mr. Bourey explained that the East Valley mayors discussed a specific breakdown. They discussed the expanded Executive Committee would include a total of 11 members with three fixed seats, and four seats for cities/towns over 100,000. The remaining four seats would be open. Mayor Shafer asked why there were four seats for cities/towns with over 100,000 in population. Mr. Bourey explained that the elected mayor of those communities represent a larger percentage of the population in Maricopa County. Mayor Shafer explained that the little cities now have to fight for things and without representation, these smaller cities won't stand a chance. Mayor Drake stated that we need to get away from the parochialism. He noted that there is tremendous growth and construction in the West Valley. Mr. Bourey noted that one set of critics say that parochialism comes from individual jurisdictional wants. Another set of critics say that parochialism comes **from east versus west**. Mayor Shafer stated that she does not like the hierarchy system.

Chairman Rimsza put an idea on the table. He suggested a total of eight seats, and those cities who do not have a seat at the table could allocate their votes to a city on the Executive Committee. This would give a city's voting base population to a representative on the Executive Committee. Mayor Drake noted that the division would still be East and West, because the city of Tempe would give their voting power to an East Valley city, not a West Valley city. Mayor Shafer asked what was wrong with the current process. She noted that each city is represented by a vote, and there is always weighted voting if need be. Mr. Bourey noted that it is important to recognize that all decisions about policy and dollars will be made by the Regional Council. Mayor Hawker asked Mayor Shafer if she believed that a city of 10,000 should have the same representation as a city of 400,000. Mayor Shafer said that there should be equal representation. She explained that she did support weighted voting in some fashion.

Mayor Keegan suggested that the Executive Committee not be expanded and that the By-laws regarding a quorum be changed. He suggested that there be representation of 50 percent of the population of member agencies at the Regional Council meetings. Mayor Scruggs stated that in true regional government, all votes are equal, if we are looking at the region as a whole. She suggested having five East Valley and five West Valley members on the expanded Executive Committee, in addition to the three permanent seats. Mayor Scruggs reminded the members that MAG is not just about transportation, but also human services and development issues. She added that the transportation issues will come out of the Transportation Subcommittee. Mayor Shafer agreed with Mayor Scruggs and added that each member should have a vote just as each citizen in our communities has a vote. Mayor Thomas stated that he attends the Regional Council meetings to work on regional issues. He noted that it would be difficult to say that any agenda item has a direct impact on Litchfield Park.

Mayor Hawker expressed his dislike for an East Valley, West Valley division. He asked what the issues were involved in addressing membership by small, medium and large jurisdictions. Mayor Scruggs stated that small, medium and large does not balance. She believes that East and West represents the region. Mayor Hawker suggested changing the dynamics by addressing membership by North and South.

Chairman Rimsza stated that of the ½ cent sales tax, Phoenix receives \$.60 on every \$1.00 contributed. He noted that Phoenix still needs to work on receiving their fair share of what they put in. Chairman Rimsza expressed that he has an obligation to his citizens to provide a level of representation. He added that other cities in other states receive a lot of state support, such as New York. Mayor Scruggs stated that transportation improvement in Phoenix helps all jurisdictions. She referenced the transit tax that will help a number of communities. Mr. Bourey added that in some areas, lack of proportional representation is illegal because the populations were not equally represented. He noted that addressing membership by small, medium and large has the same results as East and West. Mr. Bourey stated that membership can be addressed and balanced by both size and geography. He reminded the members that the full Regional Council body will remain. Mayor Drake stated that he believes East and West is important. He noted that West Valley mayors know what is going on in the West Valley. He used the example of the City of Tempe and widening US 60. The City did not want to widen US 60, but that was not in the best interest of the region as a whole.

Chairman Rimsza suggested five East Valley and five West Valley members with full weighted voting at the Regional Council level. Mayor Drake stated that weighted voting is not the right idea for MAG. Mayor Keegan disagree with Mayor Drake and noted that not only does Phoenix represent the majority of the population in Maricopa County, but it is the 6th largest city in the nation. Chairman Rimsza stated that if another agency got control of the ½ cent sales tax, Phoenix would go immediately to their Council for a local sales tax. He explained that the focus is the ½ cent sales tax extension. Mayor Scruggs asked if weighted voting would be used for all MAG issues. Chairman Rimsza stated that he has not given it much thought, and that this is really a transportation problem. Mr. Bourey recommended that weighted voting be considered for all issues. He mentioned that over the past five years, probably not one vote would have changed if weighted voting had been used. Mr. Bourey distributed to the members a list of responsibilities for the expanded Executive Committee and the Regional Council.

Chairman Rimsza noted that making a decision was not on the agenda for today. He thanked the mayors for their open dialogue.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 12:25 p.m.

Chairman

Secretary